

GUISBOROUGH  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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R E P O R T  
for the Year 1948

of the Medical Officer of Health  
W. H. BUTCHER, V.R.D., M.A.,  
D.M., D.P.H., BARRISTER - AT - LAW,  
SURGEON COMMANDER R.N.V.R.(RET)

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE  
GUISBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit herewith my Report to the Local Sanitary Authority for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

**SECTION I**  
**Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area**

**Population.**

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the District in the mid-year 1948, is 8,390 as compared to an estimate of population in the mid-year 1947 of 8,399.

**General Statistics.**

I am indebted to the Financial Officer of the Council for the following figures :—

Area of the District in acres	....	18,924
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books		2,310
Rateable Value	....	£36,717
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	....	£138

**Social Conditions.**

The District consists of the country town of Guisborough with the ruins of its ancient Priory and the villages or hamlets of Newton, Pinchinthorpe, Hutton, Upleatham, Dunsdale, Yearby, Wilton, Lazenby and Lackenby. These are situated amidst agricultural vales and wooded hills, while northwards in the low lying pastures towards the Tees there is arising the great development of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. To the south are the moors reaching a height of 1,078 feet with Penrod Hill and the bold cone of Roseberry Topping both 21 feet lower.

It is one hundred years since the first medical officer of health was appointed to any area. In that one hundred years great advances have been made in creating a healthier material environment, in the betterment of the physical condition of the people, in the removal from our midst of sudden catastrophies due to the acute infections and in a marked reduction in the insidious ravages of tuberculosis. But against this background of gain there appear certain sinister features. There is an increase in those diseases that are related to the reactions, not only of the individual's body, but also of his mind, to his total environment. I refer specifically on a later page to cardiovascular disease ; there are, however, other diseases and their incidence is not shown in the mortality tables. I get the impression that a goodly proportion of the housewives suffer from mild but definite psycho-neuroses. The men appear pre-occupied. Never have more people travelled than travel to-day and never have I seen people travel less joyfully. Has the joy and the zest of life passed from us ?

**TABLE 1.**  
**Vital Statistics.**

		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Live Births	....	87	56	143
Legitimate	....	83	53	136
Illegitimate	....	4	3	7
<hr/>				
Still Births	....	2	1	3
Legitimate	....	2	1	3
Illegitimate	....	—	—	—

**Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age**

		MALE	FEMALE
Total	....	5	2
Legitimate	....	5	1
Illegitimate	....	—	1

The number of births registered being 143 gives a birth-rate of 17 per 1,000 of the population, compared to 17.9 of England and Wales. Seven infants under the age of one year died giving an infant mortality rate of 33 per thousand births compared to the rate for England and Wales of some 34.

**TABLE 2.**  
**Analysis of Infantile Mortality, 1948**

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks.	2-3 wks.	3-4 wks.	Total under 4 wks.	1-3 mths.	3-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.	Total deaths under 1 year
Convulsions	.... 1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Heart failure										
Prematurity	.... 1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	.... 1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Gastro Enteritis	.... —	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Bronchitis	.... —	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Birth Injury	.... 1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	4	1	—	1	6	1	—	—	—	7

**TABLE 3.**  
**Vital Statistics**  
**CAUSES OF DEATH**

	MALE	FEMALE
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever ....	—	—
Scarlet Fever ....	—	—
Whooping Cough ....	—	—
Diphtheria ....	—	—
Tuberculosis of Resp. Sys. ....	—	—
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases ....	—	—
Influenza ....	—	—
Measles ....	—	—
Ac. Poliomyel. & Enceph. ....	—	—
Ac. inf. Enceph. ....	—	—
Cancer of mouth & gullet (M)	1	—
uterus (F)	—	1
Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	2	1
Cancer of Breast ....	—	—
Cancer of all other sites ....	7	—
Diabetes ....	1	—
Intracranial Vascular lesions	2	8
Heart Diseases ....	16	18
Other diseases of Circ. System	2	3
Bronchitis ....	4	5
Pneumonia ....	—	—
Other Resp. dis. ....	—	—
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years ....	1	1
Appendicitis ....	—	—
Other digestive diseases ....	—	2
Nephritis ....	3	1
Puerp. and post. abort. sepsis.	—	—
Other maternal causes ....	—	—
Premature births ....	1	—
Congen. malform., birth injuries and infantile diseases ....	2	1
Suicide ....	1	—
Road Traffic accidents ....	—	—
Other violent causes ....	1	1
All other causes ....	5	2
ALL CAUSES ....	50	46

The deaths of residents were 96 giving a death-rate of 11.4 per one thousand population, as compared with one of 10.8 for England and Wales. Of these 96 deaths no fewer than 49 were attributed to diseases of the heart and blood vessels, i.e., cardiovascular disease. In comparison with this, indeed the Captain of the death of men, tuberculosis and other infections, and even cancer, appear relatively feeble slayers. During the last hundred years Public Health, hand in hand with improving social conditions, has done great things in making life safer from catastrophies due to the infections and from the insidious ravages of tuberculosis. These gains will be largely nullified if active and experienced people in the fifties or early sixties are to be stricken down in increasing numbers by cardiovascular disease. We do not know why this increase is taking place. We may surmise, but surmise does not take the place of knowledge. It should be one of the functions of medical officers of health, if they were less burdened with administrative details, to investigate such problems, for with their knowledge of local populations they are in a unique position to do so.

## **SECTION II : Infectious Diseases.**

As Table IV below shows; 1948 was a year free from significant outbreaks. One case of diphtheria was notified. With immunization available to all, diphtheria should no longer appear in the notifications. The number of children immunized during the year was 143 in the age group 0—4, and 1 in the age group 5—14 ; in addition 334 school children previously immunized received each a reinforcing dose. Since diphtheria is most fatal in the age group 0—4, immunization should be performed in infancy, preferably between the ninth and twelfth month of life. The success, therefore, of any scheme is to be judged by numbers immunized in infancy. I think that the figure 143 in relation to 143 live births is an excellent result.

The case of paratyphoid was diagnosed in a family whose members had suffered from mild intestinal disturbances when on holiday at a seaside resort. The matter was fully investigated both here and by the Medical Officer of Health of the holiday resort, but no other cases were reported or discovered.

The pneumonia notified can be ascribed correctly to 1948 having been a non-influenzal year.

In July I arranged to keep the Health Visitors informed of each case of measles and whooping cough notified in their particular area ; the home is then visited by the Health Visitor. A final visit is paid at the end of three weeks and the parent advised if any sequelae are present such as cough, running ears, or sore eyes. Often one of these conditions is found to have commenced after an attack of measles or whooping cough. This arrangement makes satisfactory use of the notification received.

**Tuberculosis.** There were four cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1948, as compared with 2 in 1947. Of these 2 were males aged 37 and 26 respectively, and 2 were women, aged 38 and 44 respectively. 3 cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified ; of these 1 was a male aged 10 and 2 were females aged 13 and 39 respectively. As soon as a notification is received, the health visitor is informed. She reports on the social conditions so that recommendations for such action as is possible can be made.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1948**  
(other than Tuberculosis)

**TABLE IV.**

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2	3	4	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—
Scarlet Fever	8	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Measles	11	1	—	1	2	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	3	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

#### SECTION IV. Milk Supplies.

There are 51 cowkeepers registered in the District with 51 cowsheds and some 400 milk cows. 25 of these cowsheds were inspected during the year involving a total of 58 inspections. There are 48 wholesale traders and 3 retail milk sellers in the District.

#### SECTION V. Water Supplies.

The Council acquired the Gisborough Water Company at the beginning of April, 1948. A scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Health to improve the supply and extend the capacity of the service reservoir from 50,000 to 250,000 gallons. In November, 1948, a further source of supply of some 36,000 gallons a day of water of the highest degree of chemical and bacterial wholesomeness was obtained. Although since April the rainfall was much below the average the water supply was adequately maintained.

The following Table shows the results of the analyses of the water supplied by this undertaking.

**TABLE 5.**  
**Bacteriological Results—Guisborough Water.**

<i>No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No. of Colonies developing on Agar per ml. at 37°C.</i>	<i>Presumptive Coli- form reaction from 100 ml.</i>	<i>Bact. Coli Type I. from 100 ml.</i>	<i>Bl. Welchii Reaction from 100 ml.</i>
1.	6th Jan.	1	absent	absent	absent
2.	19th Jan.	less than 10	absent		
3.	20th Jan.	110	absent		
4.	18th Jan.	none	absent	absent	absent
5.	15th March	10	absent		
6.	8th March	none	absent	absent	absent
7.	6th April	210	absent		
8.	10th May	(raw water) 1	absent	absent	absent
9.	11th May	none	absent	absent	absent
10.	14th June	less than 16	absent		
11.	6th July	1	present in 10ml. absent from 1ml.	present in 10ml. absent from 1ml.	absent
12.	12th July	10	absent		
12A.	14th July	10	absent		
13.	14th July	0	absent	absent	present absent from 10ml.
14.	26th July	6	absent	absent	absent
15.	19th July	70	absent		
16.	6th Sept.	0	absent	absent	absent
17.	5th Oct.	(raw water) 100	absent		
18.	5th Oct.	(immediately below service reservoir) less than 10	absent		
19.	5th Oct.	(immediately after filtration but before chlorination) 20	absent		
20.	5th Oct.	ditto 6	absent	absent	absent
21.	5th Oct.	10	absent	absent	absent
22.	3rd Oct.	(raw water) 0	absent	absent	absent
23.	23rd Nov.	less than 10	absent	absent	absent

**TABLE 6.**

**Chemical Results in parts per million—Guisborough Water**

No. of Sample	No. 8	No. 9	No. 11	No. 16	No. 17	No. 19	No. 24
Date of Sample	10.5.48	11.5.48	6.7.48	6.9.48	5.10.48	4.10.48	16.11.48
Turbidity parts per million Silica Scale	.... 5	less than 5 alkaline	Nil	less than 5	5	less than 5	less than 5
Reaction p.H.	.... 6.7	9.6	7.2	6.9	6.4	6.3	8.9
Total Solids dried at 180°C.	.... 110	165	95	80	75	75	130
Free Carbonic Dioxide	.... 4	absent	9	trace	trace	3	absent
Chlorine in Chlorides	17	18	17	15	14	14	17
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	15	75	17	13	4	4	50
Hardness : Total	.... 55	40	45	35	30	30	35
Temporary	.... 15	40	17	13	4	4	35
Nitrogen in Nitrates	.... 0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
do. Nitrites	.... absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	less than 0.01
Free Ammonia	.... 0.016	0.012	0.016	0.020	0.020	0.010	0.032
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.056	0.022	0.054	0.046	0.074	0.030	0.028
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C.	.... 0.85	0.35	1.3	less than 0.80	0.85	0.40	less than 0.45
Metals : Iron	.... 0.12	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.28	0.03	0.03
Manganese	.... 0.14	0.14	0.05	0.07	0.25	0.10	absent
Other metals	....absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Residual Chlorine	....absent	0.25	absent	absent	absent	absent	0.12

These results show the water of a satisfactory organic and bacterial quality and as delivered to the consumer not plumbo solvent or corrosive to metals.

The liason between your Water Engineer, Mr. J. A. Thompson and myself, has been excellent on all occasions, a matter of great importance in the maintenance of a safe water supply.

The water supply at Newton under Roseberry required some investigation by me in the months of January and February. On the 19th January a routine sample taken from a standpipe near the King's Head Hotel, showed moderate contamination with coliform organism a small proportion of which were Type I and so regarded as of faecal origin. This was somewhat perturbing particularly since I saw no reason why this water should be polluted. It is in fact a water for which I had the highest regard. A further sample was therefore taken on the 28th January from the tap on the sink of the King's Head Hotel, which showed moderate contamination with coliform organisms, all of which belonged to

intermediate or irregular types. I still was dubious about the pollution of this water and so samples were taken on the 9th February from the tap over the kitchen sink at the Vicarage and submitted to examination at two separate laboratories one being the laboratory to which the previous sample had been sent. The latter still reported the presence of coliform organisms all of which belonged to intermediate or irregular types. The sample sent to the other laboratory for both chemical and bacteriological examination showed water of the highest degree of organic and bacterial purity. The chemical analysis which is given below agrees entirely with the bacteriological results.

**TABLE 7.**

**Chemical Results in parts per million—Newton Water.**

Appearance	....	Clear and bright	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	....	Nil
Colour (Hazen)	....	Nil	Odour	....	Nil
Reaction pH.	Neutral :	7.1	Free Carbon Dioxide	....	11
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.		460	Total solids dried at 180°C.		310
Chlorine in Chlorides	....	26	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate		95
Hardness : Total	195.	Carbonate (Temporary)	95.	Non-carbonate (Permanent)	100
Nitrogen in Nitrates	....	0.0	Nitrogen in Nitrites	....	absent
Free Ammonia	....	0.000	Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C.		0.00
Albuminoid Ammonia	....	0.000	Residual Chlorine	....	absent
Metals :	Iron :	....	0.03	Other Metals	absent.

**Bacteriological Results**

No. Colonies developing on	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
Agar per cc. or ml. in	0	1	1
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in	—	Absent from 100ml.
Bact. Coli.	....	Present in	—
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present in	—	Absent from 100 ml.

**SECTION VI. Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

Again I would like to take this opportunity of stressing the necessity for the frequent washings of the hands and the scrubbing of the nails of food handlers and the adequate washing of crockery and cutlery in frequent changes of hot water.

Food handlers who find themselves to be suffering from infections even apparently of a trivial kind such as skin sores, sore throats, ear discharges, diarrhoea, should consult their doctor telling him the nature of their work. My advice is available to the doctor and the facilities of the Public Health Laboratory are at hand for bacteriological investigations.

During the year the Council made enquiries of the Ministry of Food concerning the wrapping of bread. Apparently at the present time there are some difficulties in the application of this desirable, nay essential, means of protecting a foodstuff used by all, during the journey from bakehouse to consumer.

## SECTION VII

I am indebted to Mr. J. A. Thompson, your Sanitary Inspector, for the figures produced in the table below.

**TABLE 8.**  
**HOUSING STATISTICS**

Number of new houses completed in 1948 :

(a) Council	....	....	....	....	37
(b) Other	....	....	....	....	26

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	....	....	....	251
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	....	....	358
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1932	....	....	....	51
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	....	....	158
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	....	....	....	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....	....	....	251

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :*

(1) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	....	....	....	240
(2) Number of dwelling-houses where work is in progress but not yet completed	....	....	....	Nil
(3) Number of Notices in course of preparation (not yet served)	....	....	....	Nil
(4) Number of Notices outstanding	....	....	....	5

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :*

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	....	....	....	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit after service of formal notices :				
(a) By owners	....	....	....	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	....	....	....	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	....	....	....	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :				
(a) By owners	....	....	....	6
(b) By local authority in default of owners	....	....	....	Nil

**Table 8—Housing Statistics—continued.**

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :					
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	....	....	....	....	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	....	....	....	....	Nil
D. Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936 :					
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	....	....	....	....	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	....	....	....	....	Nil

**Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding.**

Considerable overcrowding exists, but no recent or accurate figures are available.

**SECTION VIII.**

**Sanitary Circumstances of the District**

I give below a table of some of the sanitary work done during the year by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. A. Thompson and also some further details which he has supplied.

**TABLE 9.**

**Nuisance Inspections.**

Total No. of Inspections made for Nuisances only 295

Nuisances found	....	295	Total needing abatement	324
Nuisances in hand, end of previous year	....	29	Abated during year	.... 318
			Outstanding at end of year	<u>6</u>
Notices served, informal	....	238	Complied with	232
Notices served, Statutory		Nil	Complied with	Nil
Total Number of summonses or other legal proceedings	....	Nil		
200 repairs were put in hand on verbal instructions only.				

**Drainage and Sewerage.**

The normal extension of the sewerage system has taken place in connection with development of the Housing Site.

In addition to this the Council have given consideration to the question of the sewerage and sewage disposal in the northern portion of the area adjacent to the Wilton Imperial Chemical Industries Development and have obtained a report from Messrs. D. Balfour & Sons, Consulting Engineers, Newcastle, recommending that this part of the area should be drained into the Eston Urban District sewers at an estimated cost of £14,000. Agreement has been reached with the Urban District Council of Eston on the matter of access to their sewers. I consider that this is a construction that should be undertaken and completed without delay.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

13 pan closets were converted to water closets.  
119 new water closets were provided for new buildings.  
115 new sanitary pans were provided and 72 new dustbins.  
252 tests and inspections were made of defective or new drainage systems.

### **Scavenging.**

There has been no change in the system of public cleansing. The refuse tip is maintained in a satisfactory manner ; the land reclaimed by tipping is returned to agriculture.

### **Bakehouses.**

There are 6 bakehouses in the District. 44 inspections of these were carried out.

### **Icecream.**

6 premises for the sale of icecream are registered in the District. Regular inspections are made of these.

### **Meat Inspection.**

Voluntary surrenders of unsound food took place on 28 occasions involving 144½ lbs. in weight.

There are 6 slaughter houses registered in the District, each of which were inspected on 2 occasions.

### **Shops Act, 1934, Sections 10 & 13.**

64 visits were paid under the above Act. Unsatisfactory conditions were found in 2 instances, both of which were remedied.

### **Tents, Vans and Sheds.**

These come into the District during the summer and are subject to regular inspection.

### **Common Lodging Houses.**

There is 1 common lodging house registered in the District. It was inspected on 12 occasions. General conditions are satisfactory.

### **Rat Disinfestation Order, 1943.**

The sewers were subject to 2 treatments and refuse tip to the same number.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

No action has been taken during the course of the year. The emission of smoke in quantity appears to me to show either inefficient plant or stoking, or both. After all—why not burn up all the carbon in the coal?

### **Squatters' Camp, Dunsdale.**

This disused army camp at Dunsdale is still occupied by squatters. Of the 22 families residing in this camp, four families have left the camp and the huts which they occupied have been demolished in accordance with the Ministry of Health's circular.

A further 4 huts on the site that have not been used for occupation have also been demolished.

## SECTION IX : Factories Act, 1937 :

The following figures have been returned to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, regarding factories in the District.

**TABLE 10.**

**1. Inspections** for the purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

PREMISES	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosec'ted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ....	13	56	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ....	25	58	3	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	40	114	3	—

### 2. Cases in which defects were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences :				
(a) Insufficient ....	2	1	1	2
(b) Unsuitable or defective ....	2	2	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ....	4	3	1	2

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation of the support during the year of the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and the close co-operation of the Clerk of the Council, Mr. G. W. Beel ; Mr. J. A. Thompson, the Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. E. Ward, the assistant Sanitary Inspector, have helped on all occasions.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. BUTCHER,

Medical Officer of Health.

BROTTON,

27th July, 1949



